

Medical News.

LIEUT.-COLONEL NATHAN RAW, M.D., M.P., has been appointed a member of the Committee of Inquiry into rates and qualifications for old age pensions.

SIR ARCHIBALD GARROD, K.C.M.G., physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, after three years' service abroad as temporary Colonel, A.M.S., has returned to civil practice in London.

THE Rockefeller General Education Board has set aside £80,000 as an endowment for a department of obstetrics in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore.

THE Silvanus Thompson Memorial Lecture of the Röntgen Society will be delivered by Professor W. M. Bayliss, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine on Tuesday, May 6th, at 8 p.m.

THE house and library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed from Thursday, April 17th, to Tuesday, April 22nd (both days inclusive), but members of the R.A.M.C. and other medical services will be admitted except on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

IT has been decided to resume the annual dinner in London of the officers of the Indian Medical Service. The dinner will be held this year at the Trocadero on Wednesday, June 11th. Further information can be obtained from Colonel J. J. Pratt, I.M.S. (ret.), 63, Addison Road, Kensington, W.14.

ON February 27th a marble plate, to which is fixed the medal of honour of the Assistance Publique, was awarded to the Lariboisière Hospital by the municipality of Paris in commemoration of the services rendered by the staff of the hospital to the people of Paris under bombardment, especially after the great explosion of the Courneuve, when it admitted more than four hundred casualties. Certain other hospitals were damaged; in 1918 bombs fell on the Saint-Antoine, Broca, Cochin, Claude-Bernard, and the Maternity, causing considerable loss of life.

IT was reported to the London Insurance Committee, on March 27th, that 512 discharged soldiers, entitled under the special arrangements to priority, and 473 of the ordinary insured population, were at present undergoing residential treatment in sanatorium or hospital, and that the waiting list of applicants for sanatorium benefit for whom beds were not available was reduced to twelve.

THE first Spanish National Congress of Medicine, which was to have been held in October last but had to be postponed on account of the epidemic of influenza, is to be held in Madrid from April 20th to 25th. The Congress is under the patronage of King Alphonso, who will be present at the opening meeting. The number of members already registered is 2,970. Receptions will be given by the King and the Municipal Council of Madrid. Occasion will be taken to found a Spanish Medical Association for the protection of the interests of the profession.

A GENERAL meeting of the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, and of its constituent sections, will be held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, London, on Monday, April 14th, at 3 p.m., under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor. Major Waldorf Astor and Viscountess Rhondda will discuss the Ministry of Health, and Lady Amptill the proposals of the Red Cross Society for helping the civil population in peace. The annual report for 1918 has now been issued. The aim of the League is to form a link between the many voluntary national organizations concerned in safeguarding the health of the nation at large and of mothers and young children in particular. The office of the League is at 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

A CONFERENCE was held on April 2nd, at the Local Government Board, with representatives of the port sanitary authorities of the principal English ports and their medical officers, to consider preventive measures against the importation of infectious diseases into this country from abroad owing to the resumption of passenger sea traffic. In view of the prevalence of typhus, small-pox, and other infectious diseases on the Continent, particularly in the east of Europe, the medical advisers of the Local Government Board regard it as essential that the utmost vigilance should be exercised, and the Board will take steps to strengthen the powers and duties of port sanitary authorities. The conference also discussed the arrangements for medical examination of aliens in connexion with proposed legislation. On the establishment of a Ministry of Health steps will probably be taken to combine the present medical work of the port sanitary authorities with the medical examination of aliens.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Attology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard.
2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

THE SPREAD OF RABIES.

THE Rabies Order recently issued for Monmouthshire and portions of the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock, Gloucester, and Hereford, has raised the question of what a medical man should do in case he is called to a person in these areas who has been bitten by a dog suspected to be rabid. The Local Government Board issued a memorandum some time ago advising that any person bitten by a dog in areas in which rabies in dogs is suspected should have the wound treated as soon as possible with undiluted carbolic acid, or with undiluted izal or similar disinfectant, which should be allowed to come into contact with all parts of the wound; it should then be washed out with water or dilute disinfectant. If the dog is pronounced, on competent veterinary authority, to have had rabies, the person bitten should be urged to secure specific antirabic treatment as soon as possible, no matter what local treatment has been applied to the bite. The specific treatment can be given at Plymouth with material supplied for the purpose by the Director of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. The treatment is given for the Local Government Board by Dr. W. L. Pethybridge, Pathologist of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital; communications for him should be addressed to 11, Whitefield Terrace, Plymouth. Pending the decision as to whether the dog is rabid, the medical officer of the district in which the bitten person lives should be informed, and the person should be told to be prepared, if so advised, to go to Plymouth for antirabic treatment on receipt of a telegram.

IODINE IN INFLUENZA.

DR. W. THOMAS (Rhyl, North Wales) writes: I note with pleasure in your last issue that Dr. Andrés Sobrino of Madrid speaks enthusiastically of the efficacy of the tincture of iodine in influenza. The authorities of a dimmer therapeutic age than the present condemned it as unsuitable for internal administration because of its liability to produce iodism. There never was a greater error, but such is the power of tradition that when I try to persuade my brother practitioners to use it I am speaking to deaf ears. For many years I have prescribed the drug extensively in many conditions, and I owe much of the success I have achieved as a practitioner to its efficacy. The pharmacopoeial dose is practically useless; it must be given in doses of from 10 to 60 minims, well diluted. I have often taken 5j in a tumbler of water, and have averted many a threatening cold or an attack of influenza by so doing. It is excellent, combined with an alkali, in acid dyspepsia. I have never known it to produce the bugbear "iodism," and my own experience fully justifies Dr. Sobrino's enthusiastic praise. It is one of the best drugs in the *British Pharmacopoeia*, either externally or internally used.

SUPERANNUATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

"EFFICIENCY" writes: As a strong committee is about to be formed in favour of legislation for superannuation of Scottish Local Government officials, including parochial medical officers, I hope the special claims of the medical officers of the Highland and Island parishes will receive the consideration they deserve. The medical officer who has served for fifteen or twenty years in these isolated parishes, doing Government and national work, ought to be eligible for pension.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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